

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #78-5a Building Date: ca. 1850

Building Name: Dr. Richard W. Bowie House (Clermont)

Location: 3808 Ritchie-Marlboro Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

The Dr. Richard W. Bowie House is a Greek Revival style frame house which stands on the top of a prominent hill west of Upper Marlboro. The structure consists of a two-story main block with shallow pyramidal roof and a one-story shed-roof addition attached to the east. The main block is three bays wide and nearly square, with entrance in the first bay of the principal north facade, through a door with six-pane transom, and four-pane sidelights, which leads into a wide stairhall. There are two connecting parlors to the west, each with a fireplace in its west wall. These fireplaces were originally served by two exterior brick chimneys, now removed and replaced by two tall interior stacks. Originally there was a small brick pent between the chimneys. Cornices of the main block are boxed with crown molding. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have beaded surrounds. Built onto the east is a two-bay shed-roof addition, whose roof, at its highest point, is almost as high as the cornice of the main block. The entire building is sheathed with white composition siding and the old standing-seam tin roof has been replaced by asphalt shingle. A short distance to the northeast stands a twentieth-century tobacco barn, with concrete block stripping shed; on lower ground to the north are an older stable and corn crib. The house is approached from the north by an old lane with deep-cut banks and tree canopy.

Significance

The Dr. Richard W. Bowie House at Groome's Lot is an example of a plantation house style which was popular in Prince George's County in the mid-nineteenth century. This style, (square, frame, with hip roof, prominent chimney stacks, and side-hall-and-double-parlor plan) is exemplified by three surviving dwellings in the Marlboro area: the William Elliott House at Cool Spring Manor, the Benjamin F. Duvall House at Trumps Hill and the Bowie House at Groome's Lot. The subject house was built ca. 1850 by Dr. Bowie on part of Groome's Lot. Dr. Bowie died in 1859 and his farm was divided among his heirs, with the dower portion (including the house) going to his widow; it remains to this day in the possession of their descendants. Dr. Bowie's house has been considerably altered. Like the Duvall House at Trumps Hill, a shed-roof addition was built onto one side; at the Bowie House, however, the addition was constructed on the hall side, and therefore did not enclose the chimneys. The chimneys themselves, and the pent between them, were removed early in this century. The Dr. Richard W. Bowie House is located in a unique rural district west of Upper Marlboro, which retains much of its mid-nineteenth century agricultural setting, and is dotted with historic homes of considerable importance.

Acreage: 33.59 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.#78-5.a

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. Richard W. Bowie House

and/or common Clermont

## 2. Location

street & number 3808 Ritchie Marlboro Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John W. Miller

street & number 6921 Pacific Lane telephone no.: 256-5702

city, town Annandale, state and zip code Virginia 22003

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5976

street & number Main Street folio 70

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG#78-5a

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dr. Richard W. Bowie House at Groome's Lot is a Greek Revival style frame house which stands on the top of a prominent hill overlooking the M-NCPPC Randall Farm on the east, and rolling farmland to the west. A long cedar-lined entrance drive leads east from Ritchie-Marlboro Road, past the Mary Bowie Wall House (78-5b), to a corn-crib; at this point, the lane turns to the south, and ascends the hill, by means of a deeply-worn track with steep banks and a canopy of trees, to the mid-nineteenth century dwelling of Dr. Richard W. Bowie.

The house consists of a nearly-square two-story main block with shallow pyramidal roof and a one-story shed-roof addition attached to the east. The main block is three bays wide and nearly square, with entrance in the first bay of the principal north facade. This entrance is through a door with six-pane transom, and four-pane sidelights over molded wainscot panels. (The modern door itself is a replacement.) Sheltering this north door is a modern one-bay pedimented entry porch, supported by plain posts and resting on concrete blocks. The engaged Tuscan columns of the original porch survive, flanking the formal entrance. The door leads into a wide stairhall which runs through the house to a four-panel door on the south. The open-string staircase rises along the east wall of the stairhall, turns 90° at a landing, and turns 90° again to the second story. The stair has a heavy turned newel with mitred cap, turned balusters (some of which are missing), bracketed stairends and panelled spandrel. The molded surrounds survive at the doors and windows, and are bold Greek Revival in profile: they have plain backband, an ogee molding, plain frieze and inner bead. Baseboards are high with crown molding.

Two doors lead west from the stairhall into the two adjoining parlors. These parlors have been altered, particularly by the conversion of the south (rear) parlor into a kitchen, but the wood mantels and moldings are still in place. The mantels are plain, severe Greek Revival in style: plain shelf and frieze, with wide, deeply fluted pilasters. The fireplaces were originally served by two exterior brick chimneys on the west facade, now removed and replaced by two tall interior stacks. Originally there was a small brick pent (with one 6/6 window) between the chimneys. The interior door (which once led between the fireplaces into the pent) has been closed, and there is, today, no exterior evidence of the chimneys or the pent.

Mantels in the second story bedrooms above the two parlors are somewhat plainer than the parlor mantels: plain frieze with vertically panelled pilasters. Wood trim in door and window surrounds is consistent throughout the first and second stories. Floors are of wide, random-width boards; all doors have four panels.

The cornice of the main block is boxed with crown molding. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have beaded surrounds. There are no shutters. The building rests on a brick foundation, now parged with concrete; there is no basement. Framing of the house is reported to be of whole logs, originally covered with plain horizontal board siding.

Built onto the east facade is a two-bay-wide shed-roof addition, whose roof, at its highest point, is almost as high as the cornice of the main block. This addition rests on brick piers which are now infilled and parged with concrete. There are two small (modern) windows in the north facade of this shed-roof wing, which are recent replacements for the original 6/6 double hung sash windows. (A second-story 6/6 double hung sash window which pierced the roofline of the wing was removed and closed in the 1970's, and its location is hidden by the modern siding.) One of the two south bays of the wing is sheltered by a one-story shed-roof porch, which extends to shelter the two eastmost bays of the main block; this porch is now enclosed with screen. A tall corbelled brick chimney rises from near the center of the roof of the wing.

The entire building is now sheathed with white composition siding; it replaces the asbestos shingle which, until the 1970's renovation, covered the original board siding. The old standing-seam metal roof has been replaced by asphalt shingle.

A short distance to the northeast stands a twentieth-century tobacco barn; it is tall, with gable roof covered with corrugated metal. The vertical board siding is circular sawn, and there is an entrance in the south gable end. Just west of the barn is a small concrete-block stripping shed.

The deeply worn entrance lane descends northward from the house, through a canopy of trees, to the bottom of the hill, where it turns westward toward Ritchie-Marlboro Road. At the bottom of the hill, to the east, is a gable-roof corn crib. It has circular-sawn vertical board siding, and standing-seam metal roof, and it stands on concrete piers.

Immediately east of the corn crib is a gable-roof stable building, composed of a mixture of construction materials. Its hewn sill beams rest directly on the ground; some of the vertical board siding is hand cut and some circular sawn, while other parts of the building have board-and-batten siding. The doors hang from large strap hinges, and the gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal.

Immediately southeast of the house is a complex of three small domestic outbuildings: privy, shed, and chicken house. A twentieth century lane leads south from the house, past these outbuildings, to another large gable-roof tobacco barn which has circular-sawn vertical board siding and standing-seam metal roof, and rests on a concrete foundation. This lane continues down and to the north, meeting the old entrance drive immediately south of the Mary Bowie Wall House (78-5b).

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG#78-5a

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1850 **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Dr. Richard W. Bowie House at Groome's Lot is an example of a plantation house style which was popular in Prince George's County in the mid-nineteenth century. This style, (square, frame with hip roof and prominent chimney stacks, and side-hall-and-double-parlor plan) is exemplified by three surviving dwellings in the Marlboro area: the William Elliott House at Cool Spring Manor (#74B-16b), the Benjamin F. Duvall House at Trumps Hill (#82A-12) and the Bowie House at Groome's Lot, all built in the 1840's or 1850's. The Richard W. Bowie House was built ca. 1850 by Dr. Bowie on part of Groome's Lot which he acquired in that year from his father, William M. Bowie.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Bowie had completed his medical training at the Maryland University in Baltimore in 1833 and married in 1836. He practiced medicine in Upper Marlboro, for several years in the renowned Marlborough House, but for many years he both lived and practiced at the house on Groome's Lot.<sup>2</sup> This house consisted of a wide stairhall on the east, and two connecting parlors on the west with fireplaces which were served by two massive exterior chimneys; between the chimneys was a brick pent. Very early, probably only a few years after the construction of the main block, a wing was added on the east.

Dr. Bowie died in 1859 and his farm was divided among his heirs, with the dower portion (including the house) going to his widow. The farmland directly north of the dower portion went to Dr. Bowie's daughter, Mary Bowie Wall, and by 1872 a house had been constructed on that parcel and became the Wall family home (cf. #78-5b). Both parcels of land remain to this day in the possession of Mary Wall's descendants<sup>3</sup>, and both are rental dwellings.

Dr. Bowie's house has been considerably altered. Like the Duvall House at Trumps Hill a shed-roof addition was built onto one side; at the Bowie House, however, the addition was constructed on the hall side; and therefore did not enclose the chimneys. The chimneys themselves, and the pent between them, were removed early in this century; vestiges of them,

and the new interior stacks which replaced them, appear in a 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey photograph.<sup>4</sup> New composition siding on this west facade now hides all exterior evidence of the original chimneys and pent. This house is occupied by tenants of longstanding.

Dr. Bowie's house (known in this century as Clermont) exemplifies a once-popular style of Prince George's County plantation house architecture, but other examples survive which are in closer to original condition: the Elliott-Beall House near Clagett Landing (74B-16b) has the same hip-roof profile, but interior chimneys; Bellevue (84-20, National Register) has exterior chimneys and pent, as Dr. Bowie's house originally did, but has a gable roof. The interior woodwork in Dr. Bowie's house (mantels, moldings and stair detail) is typical of mid-nineteenth century trim and some of it is salvageable. The house stands on a prominent hill overlooking the rest of the farm; it is located in a unique rural district west of Upper Marlboro, which retains much of its mid-nineteenth century agricultural setting, and is dotted with historic homes of considerable importance.

#### Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed JBB #6:490.
- 2 E.G. Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County, p. 729 ff.; Planter's Advocate, 31 August 1853, 9 June 1858, 2 February 1859; Prince George's County Marriage Licenses.
- 3 Prince George's County Equity #889; Prince George's County Tax Assessments; cf. chain of title.
- 4 Historic American Buildings Survey photograph, 27 April 1936, Library of Congress.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #78-5a

cf. Chain of Title  
cf. Notes, Item #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 33.59 acres, TM#91, p.22Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Section B

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
Zone Easting Northing

B            
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Prince George's County  
Historic Preservation Commissiondate July 1985 / October 1988street & number c/o County Planning Division, M-NCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town CAB, Upper Marlboro,state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #78-5a Building Date: ca. 1850

Building Name: Richard W. Bowie House (Clermont)

Location: 3820 Ritchie-Marlboro Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Richard W. Bowie House is a handsome Federal-style frame house which stands on the top of a prominent hill west of Upper Marlboro. The structure consists of a two-story main block with shallow pyramidal roof and a one-story shed-roof addition attached to the east. The main block is three bays wide and nearly square, with entrance in the first bay of the principal north facade, through a door with six-pane transom, and four-pane sidelights, which leads into a wide stairhall. There are two connecting parlors to the west, each with a fireplace in its west wall. These fireplaces were originally served by two exterior brick chimneys, now removed and replaced by two tall interior stacks. Originally there was a small brick pent (with one 6/6 window) between the chimneys. Cornices of the main block are boxed and have crown moldings. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have beaded surrounds. Built onto the east facade is a two-bay-wide shed-roofed addition, whose roof, at its highest point is almost as high as the cornice of the main block. The entire building is sheathed with white composition siding and the old standing-seam tin roof has been replaced by asphalt shingle. A short distance to the northeast stands a twentieth century tobacco barn, and a concrete block stripping shed.

Significance:

The Dr. Richard W. Bowie house at Groome's Lot is a good example of a plantation house style which was popular in Prince George's County in the mid-nineteenth century. This style, (square, frame, hip roofed, with prominent chimney stacks, and side-hall-and-double parlor plan) is exemplified by three surviving dwellings in the Marlboro area: the William Elliott house at Cool Spring Manor, the Benjamin F. Duvall house at Trumps Hill and the Bowie house at Groome's Lot. The Richard W. Bowie house was built ca. 1850 by Dr. Bowie on part of Groome's Lot. Dr. Bowie died in 1859 and his farm was divided among his heirs, with the dower portion (including the house) going to his widow; it remains to this day in the possession of their descendants. Dr. Bowie's house has been considerably altered. Like the Duvall house at Trumps Hill a shed-roof addition was built onto one side; at the Bowie house, however, the addition was constructed on the hall side, and therefore did not enclose the chimneys. The chimneys themselves, and the pent between them, were removed early in this century. In spite of the alterations, the Bowie house exemplifies a once-popular style of Prince George's County plantation-house architecture. It is located in a unique rural district west of Upper Marlboro, which retains much of its mid-nineteenth century agricultural setting, and is dotted with historic homes of considerable importance.

Acreage: 33.59 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.#78-5 a

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. Richard W. Bowie House

and/or common Clermont

## 2. Location

street & number 3820 Ritchie Marlboro Road  not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro  vicinity of  congressional district 5state Maryland  county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John W. Miller

street &amp; number 6921 Pacific Lane telephone no.: 256-5702

city, town Annandale, state and zip code Virginia 22003

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5976

street &amp; number Main Street folio 70

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Richard W. Bowie House (Clermont) is a handsome Federal-style frame house which stands on the top of a prominent hill overlooking the M-NCPPC Randall Farm on the east, and rolling farmland to the west. The structure consists of a nearly-square two-story main block with shallow pyramidal roof and a one-story shed-roof addition attached to the east. The main block is three bays wide and nearly square, with entrance in the first bay of the principal north facade. This entrance is through a door with six-pane transom, and four-pane sidelights. (The modern door itself is a replacement.) Sheltering this north door is a one-bay pedimented porch, supported by plain posts and resting on concrete blocks. The door leads into a wide stairhall which runs through the house to a four-panel door on the south. There are two connecting parlors to the west, each with a fireplace in its west exterior wall. These fireplaces were originally served by two exterior brick chimneys on the west facade, now removed and replaced by two tall interior stacks. Originally there was a small brick pent (with one 6/6 window) between the chimneys. The interior door (which once led between the fireplaces into the pent) has been closed, and there is no exterior evidence of the chimneys or the pent.

Cornices of the main block are boxed and have crown moldings. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have beaded surrounds. There are no shutters.

Built onto the east facade is a two-bay-wide shed-roofed addition, whose roof, at its highest point is almost as high as the cornice of the main block. This addition rests on brick piers which are now infilled and parged with concrete. There are two small (modern) windows in the north facade of this shed roof wing, which are recent replacements for the original 6/6 double hung sash windows. (A second-story 6/6 double hung sash window which pierced the roofline of the wing was removed and closed in the 1970's, and its location is hidden by the modern siding.) One of the two south bays of the wing is sheltered by a one-story shed-roofed porch, which extends to shelter the two eastmost bays of the main block. This porch is now enclosed with screen. A tall corbelled brick chimney rises from the roof of the wing.

The entire building is now sheathed with white composition siding; it replaces the asbestos shingle which, until the 1970's renovation, covered the original board siding. The old standing-seam tin roof has been replaced by asphalt shingle. The main block rests on a brick foundation, now parged with concrete.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

**Specific dates** ca. 1850 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Dr. Richard W. Bowie house at Groome's Lot is a good example of a plantation house style which was popular in Prince George's County in the mid-nineteenth century. This style, (square, frame, hip roofed, with prominent chimney stacks, and side-hall-and-double parlor plan) is exemplified by three surviving dwellings in the Marlboro area: the William Elliott house at Cool Spring Manor (#74B-16b), the Benjamin F. Duvall house at Trumps Hill (#82A-12), and the Bowie house at Groome's Lot, all built in the 1840's or 1850's. The Richard W. Bowie house was built ca. 1850 by Dr. Bowie on part of Groome's Lot which he acquired in that year from his father, William M. Bowie.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Bowie had completed his medical training at the Maryland University in Baltimore in 1833 and married in 1836. He practiced medicine in Upper Marlboro, for several years in the renowned Marlborough House, but for many years he both lived and practiced at the house on Groome's lot.<sup>2</sup> This house consisted of a wide stairhall on the east, and two connecting parlors on the west with fireplaces which were served by two massive exterior chimneys; between the chimneys was a brick pent.

Dr. Bowie died in 1859 and his farm was divided among his heirs, with the dower portion (including the house) going to his widow. The portion directly north of the dower house went to Dr. Bowie's daughter, Mary Bowie Wall, and by 1872 a house had been constructed on that parcel and became the Wall family home (cf. #78-56). Both parcels of land remain to this day in the possession of Mary Wall's descendants<sup>3</sup>, and both are rental dwellings.

Dr. Bowie's house has been considerably altered. Like the Duvall house at Trumps Hill a shed-roof addition was built onto one side; at the Bowie house, however, the addition was constructed on the hall side, and therefore did not enclose the chimneys. The chimneys themselves, and the pent between them, were removed early in this century; vestiges of them, and the new interior stacks which replaced them, appear in a 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey photograph.<sup>4</sup> New composition siding on this west facade now hides all exterior evidence of the original chimneys and pent. This house is occupied by tenants of long standing.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #78-5 a

cf. Chain of Title  
cf. Notes, Item #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 33.59 acres, TM#91, p.22

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Section B

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian		
organization	Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission	date	July 1985
street & number	c/o County Planning Division, M-NCPPC	telephone	952-3521
city or town	CAB, Upper Marlboro,	state	MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## 7. Continued

A short distance to the northeast stands a twentieth century tobacco barn, and just west of the barn is a concrete block stripping shed. At the foot of the hill to the east is the automobile maintenance facility of M-NCPPC.

## 8. Continued

In spite of the alterations, the house at Groome's Lot (known in this century as Clermont) still exemplifies a once-popular style of Prince George's County plantation-house architecture. Its interior woodwork (mantels, architraves and stair detail) is typical of mid-nineteenth century trim and in reasonably good condition. The house stands on a prominent hill overlooking the rest of the farm; it is located in a unique rural district west of Upper Marlboro, which retains much of its mid-nineteenth century agricultural setting, and is dotted with historic homes of considerable importance.

Notes:

- 1 Prince George's County Deed JBB #6:490
- 2 E.G. Bowie, Across the years in Prince George's County, p. 729 ff.; Planters Advocate, 31 August 1853, 9 June 1858, 2 February 1859; Prince George's County Marriage Licenses.
- 3 Prince George's County Equity #889; Prince George's County Tax Assessments; cf. chain of title.
- 4 Historic American Buildings Survey photograph, 27 April 1936, Library of Congress.

Chain of Title

Richard W. Bowie House (Clermont)  
P.G. #78A-5a

- #5976:70  
29 Aug 1984  
Deed  
James Aluisi, sheriff, to John W. and Elizabeth G. Miller, by execution 17 May 1984 sheriff to sell two parcels of which first is 33.59 acres described in #5433:509 as parcel 1 (Tax map 91, parcel 22).
- 5433:509  
30 Apr 1981  
Deed  
Justin M. Miller, Jr. to Justin McCarthy Miller Jr., two parcels of which #1 is: 46.67 acre parcel (made up of a 13 acre and a 33.67 acre parcel) except 13.08 acre parcel sold to M-NCPPC, described in #4710:533.
- #4710:533  
6 Oct 1976  
Deed  
Margaret G. Miller (divorced) to J. McCarthy Miller, Jr. all interest granted to them before their divorce (1970)  
Lot A (woodland) 13 acres  
Lot C 33.67 acres,  
same described in #22:429, part of land which Margaret Wall Miller inherited from her mother, Mary T. Bowie Wall (Will WTD #6:132).
- GSMcG #14:348  
Feb 1973  
Will  
Testator, Margaret Wall Miller; all property to husband, Justin M. Miller, and after his death to two sons, J. M. Miller, Jr., and John Wall Miller.
- WTD #6:132  
13 Jan 1940  
Will  
Testator, Mary Truman Bowie Wall; all real estate to her daughter, Margaret Wall Miller.
- #22:429  
7 Feb 1905  
Deed  
Amelia H. Bowie to Mary T. Wall, part of "Groome's Lot", Lot #4 (Dower), in division of real estate of Dr. R. W. Bowie (1872): Lot A (woodland) 13 acres, and Lot C (33.67 acres), being part of the property conveyed to Amelia Bowie and Mary Wall by Magruder and Stanley, trustees.
- #13:85  
24 Apr 1903  
Deed  
C. C. Magruder to C. H. Stanley, trustees, to Mary T. Wall (wife of John T. Wall) and Amelia Bowie; by Equity #2869, trustees appointed to sell 92.5 acres, the home part of the "Widow's Dower" as described in Equity #889, and they sell to grantees.
- #2869  
1902  
Equity  
Margaret R. McGregor, and Agnes and A. P. Bowie versus Mary T. and J. T. Wall, and Amelia Bowie; sale of real estate for purpose of division of proceeds. Margaret, Agnes, Mary and Amelia own land jointly, 92.5 acres "Widows Dower", estate of Dr. Richard W. Bowie (their

father) where his widow Margaret W. Bowie subsequently lived and died. It cannot be divided, so trustees are appointed to sell ("improved by a large and commodious dwelling and outbuildings and barn and tenant house").

#889  
26 Mar 1880  
Equity

Margaret & R. McGregor for a commission to divide the real estate to Richard W. Bowie, who died intestate in 1859, possessed of "Groomes Lot", ca. 300 acres, his home plantation, leaving widow Margaret W. Bowie, four daughters and three sons. Sons have relinquished their rights to their father's real estate (cf. will of their grandfather, WAJ #1:236). Petition for division of land. Commission divides, and allots Dower portion (92.5 acres) to widow, Lot #1 (82 3/4 acres) to Amelia, Lot #2 (72 acres) to Agnes, Lot #3 (79 3/4 acres) to Mary, and Lot #4 to Margaret McGregor. (Dr. Bowie home place is on the Dower portion; Wall house is on Lot #3).

JBB#6:490  
10 Sept 1850  
Deed

William M. and Mary Bowie to Richard W. Bowie, for \$8,000; 288 acres of "Groomes Lot" which grantors acquired from Notley Young in 1833.

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE COUNTY TOWN STREET NO. 1 mile se of int. Westphalia Rd. and Ritchie-Marlboro Rd. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE           no information PRESENT OWNER Von Garlem PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY
	2. NAME                   CLERMONT DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION                   OPEN TO PUBLIC

Nothing on property but very late Victorian ~~pr~~ farmhouse  
 Working farm-whatever was there appears to be gone

PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

"Clermont" - DFR

LAEE - 1 photo

SUPP!

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.  RINN, Survey - p 91	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  DATE OF RECORD

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R-E

● 78-5b

R-A

PG: 78-5a ●

JUSTIN M. MILLER, JR., ETAL  
5433 / 509  
33 59A  
P. 22

78-14b ●

O-S

CHARLES T. CLAGETT, ETAL  
5419 / 854  
303.80 A  
P. 5

9015

R-A

● 78-14a

Elizabeth Clark, etal  
5855' x 2  
234.8 Ac. P. 15

BACK

**Upper Marlboro**

University of Maryland  
Tobacco Experiment Station

Oak Grove Substation

Rec Center

Brock Hall

**PG 78-5a**

RANDALL TRACT  
RECREATION AREA

Schoolhouse Pond  
Upper Marlboro

Mt Carmel Cem

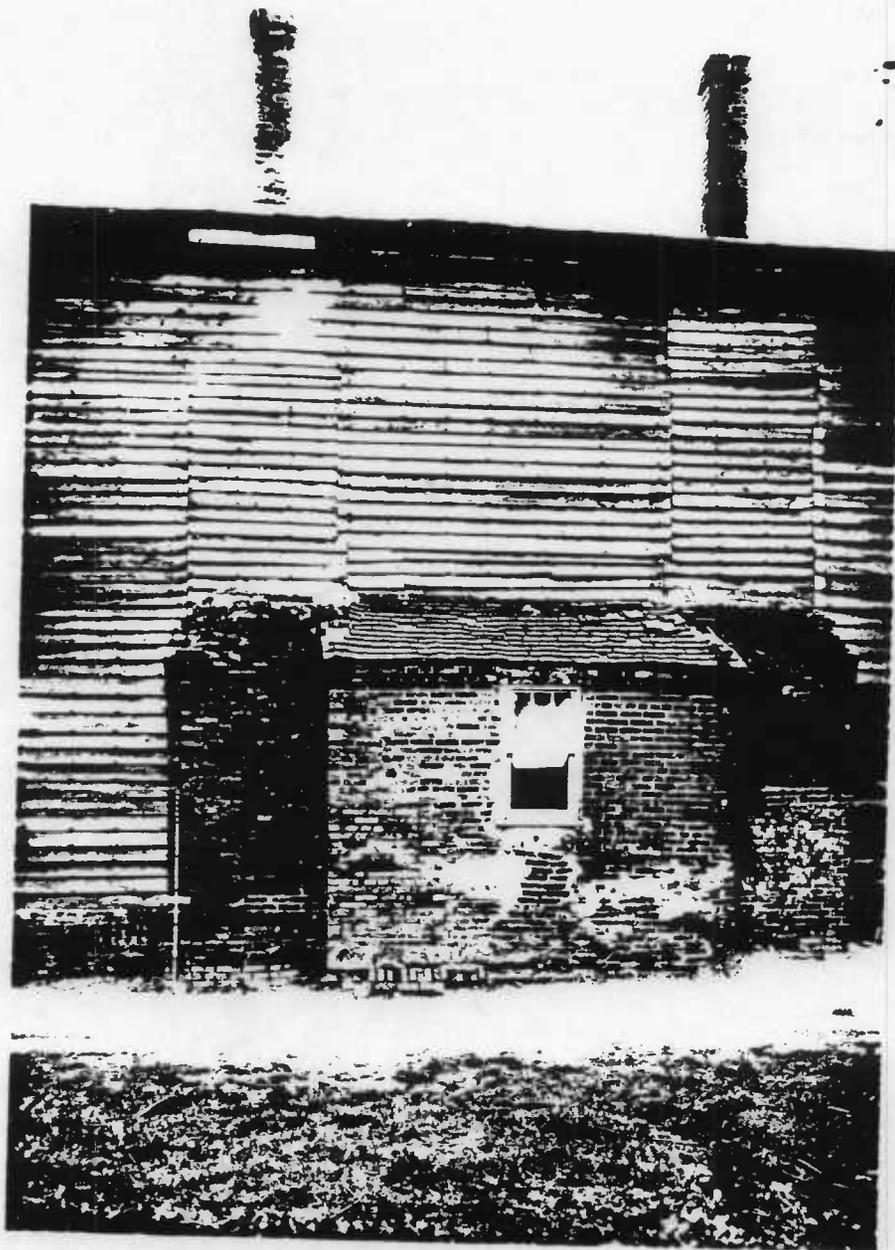
Frederick Sasser High Sch

Federal Spring Recreation Center

Douglas Sch

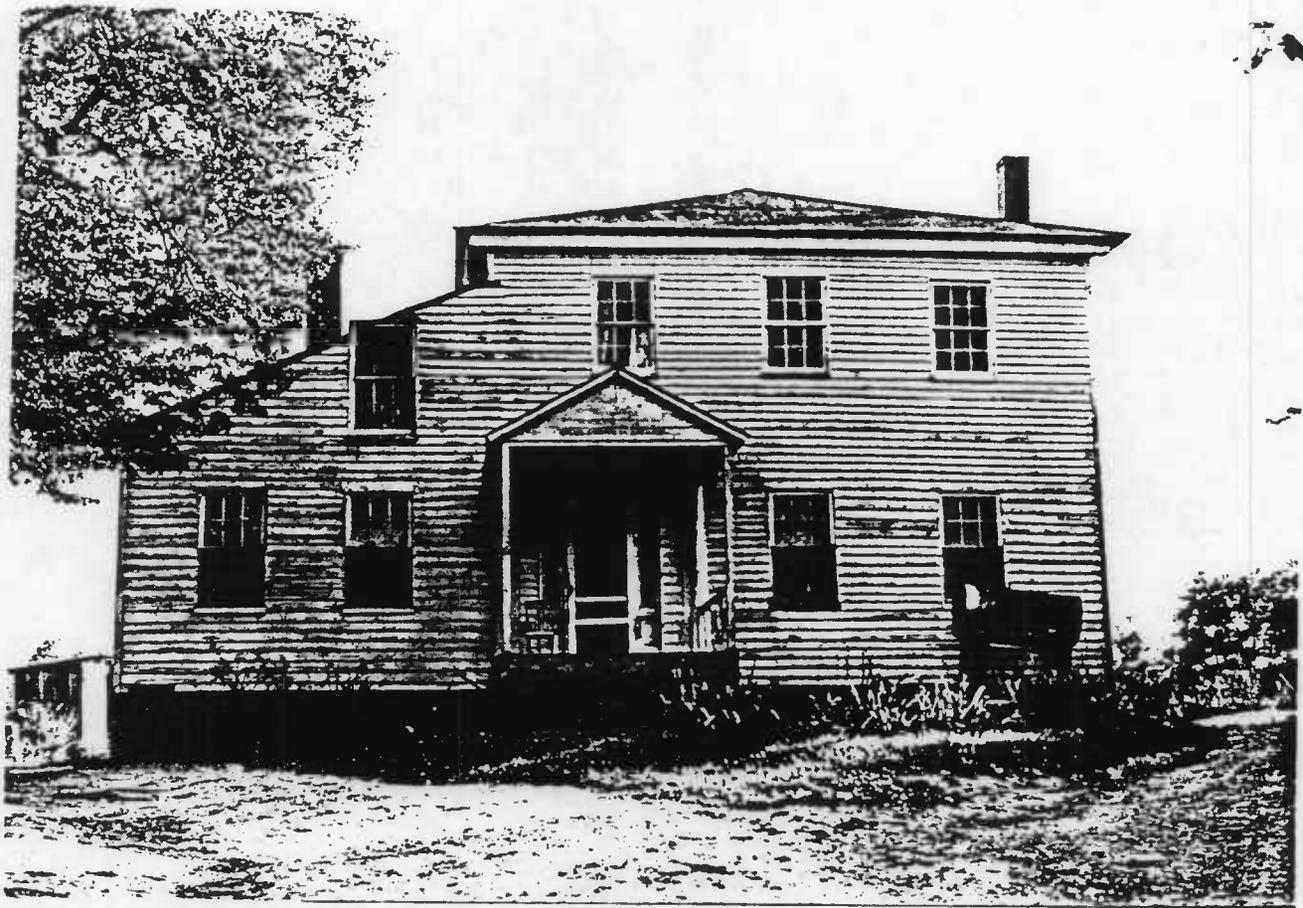


4303  
4302  
370  
4301  
4300  
50'  
0.4 MI. TO MD. 408  
4298  
4297  
4296  
BRISTOL 0.7 MI. TO U.S. 301  
5661 SW  
FARRINGTONS



CHELEMONT  
UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND  
VIEW FROM WEST (CHIMNEY DETAIL RUINS)  
PHOTO BY: JOHN O. BROSTRUP

HABS photograph, west elevation, April 1936



North elevation,

1974

(1988)

PG #78-5a



North entrance



NAME CLERMONT

PG: 78-5a

LOCATION RITCHIE/MARLBORO Rd UPPER MARLBORO, Md

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 10/9/74 MDWYER



P.G. #78-5a

Richard W. Bowie House (Cleremont)  
Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

North entrance

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #78-5a  
Richard W. Bowie House (Cleremont)  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1985  
North elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #78-5a

Richard W. Bowie House (Cleremont)

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



Pg# 48-50

Dr. F. Lord W. Moore, Curator,

United States National Museum,

Smithsonian Institution,

October 1988

Very much from interest  
Love

My best regards to your family

1 of 5







Q. # 118-5a

Dr. Richard M. Cowie House

Carroll County, Md

June 1988

October 1988

North door interior

Reg: Md Hist. Serv

Annapolis, Md.

11/2/88







P.S. # 17-5a

Dr. Charles L. D. Lewis House

Prince George's Co., MD

Susan M. Pearl

October 1958

How view to south

Reg. S. West. Trust

Prince Georges, MD.

575